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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

31 JAN 2006

In re Application of:

Date:

January 31, 2006

Gustav Strobel

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.:

Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

Attorney Ref.

WBA06301

For: STACKING COLUMN

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98**

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the following patents, publications, applications, and/or other information are being submitted and disclosed to the Office, including those listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, for consideration by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed information be made of record and expressly considered by the Examiner during examination of the pending application. Further, Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed items be listed on the face of any patent issuing from the pending application in the "references cited" column.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (g), the present information disclosure statement is not a representation that a search has been made.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (h), the present information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability.

In accordance with MPEP § 609, Applicants respectfully request that if the present application is a continuing application, all information considered by the Office in the parent application be considered in the present application, although it need not be listed on the face of the patent unless resubmitted in this or another information disclosure statement filed in this application.

Finally, the present information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art.

**BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OFFICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

☒ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

The present information disclosure statement is being filed, to the best of Applicants' knowledge and belief:

- (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d); or
- (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or
- (4) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

☐ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

The present information disclosure statement is being filed, to the best of Applicants' knowledge and belief, before the mailing of any of: a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

☐ Applicants certify that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

☐ Applicants certify that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

OR

☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)**

The present information disclosure statement is being filed, to the best of Applicants' knowledge and belief, on or before payment of the issue fee.

☐ Applicants certify that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

☐ Applicants certify that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

AND

☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account \_\_\_\_\_.

**CONTENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 31 JAN 2006

The present information disclosure statement includes any information noted above, along with a Form PTO-1449 (1 page).

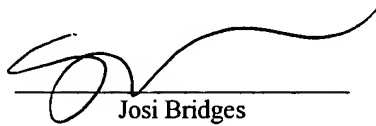
If applicable, a legible copy of the following is being included:

- (1) Each foreign patent or published foreign patent application, along with an English language abstract for all non-English foreign patent documents (identified by country or patent office, an appropriate document number, and the publication date).
- (2) Each publication (identified by published, author (if any), title, relevant pages of the publication, date, and place of publication).

If there are any questions regarding this submission, please contact the undersigned.


**"Express Mail" Mailing Label**  
**No. EV745369090US**  
**Date of Deposit – January 31, 2006**

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

  
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Respectfully submitted,

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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION			DOCKET NUMBER WBA06301		APPLICATION NUMBER <b>10/566692</b>		
			APPLICANTS Gustav Strobel				
			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP ART UNIT		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FIL. DATE IF APPROP.	
	5,217,121	6/8/1993	Walker				
	5,301,824	4/12/1994	Schoeller				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	3536251	12/18/1986	Germany			abstract	
	3619688	12/17/1987	Germany			abstract	
	3811310	10/19/1989	Germany			abstract	
	0562417	9/29/1993	Europe			abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			